

# The Fire Marshal Trumpet

A quarterly publication of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

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The Fire Marshal Trumpet is designed, written, and edited by the employees and staff of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office in an effort to assist and inform the fire service and citizens of Kansas. Articles, ideas, and comments are welcome and can be submitted to:

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NOTES FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL Jack Alexander, Kansas State Fire Marshal

First let me thank all of the employees for their dedication and professionalism to perform the duties of the office. You and I know how difficult it is trying to please all we have contact with. Everything that we do in all divisions of this agency is done for a purpose and we never compromise the agencies integrity. All of you do a great job in carrying out that difficult task most times without any recognition for the quality of work, the protection of life and property that you have in your hands daily. I salute each of you for that and how you do things for this agency as well as for the people of the State of Kansas.

I also want to thank all of you for your participation in the training activities that were conducted. Our ongoing plan is to try to do more of the same; some will be done specifically targeted toward individual job assignments.

I am very proud and it is a joy to work with such dedicated people here in the Office of the Fire Marshal. By your willingness and desire you have brought back the respect that you all deserve. I hear comments many times over; so again, congratulations but keep the bar high.

Budget time is getting near and we will again make effort to try to expand our workforce and all the resources that it takes to help us continue. Administratively we will continue to tweak, fine tune personnel and positions so that the workload is as evenly distributed as we can get it.

For those agencies and persons that our office works with, they can continue to expect that we will always conduct our business in meeting our mission, consistent with the rules, regulations, codes and statues that govern our activities. Enjoy the rest of the summer and be sure to get in some quality family time; you have all earned it. Every day is a good day, and I am still enjoying being your Fire Marshal.

### FIRE PREVENTION: Dan McLaughlin, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

# Fire Prevention Week October 8-14

'Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat.'



It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 8-14 your fire department is joining forces with the KSFMO to remind local residents to 'Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat.' During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of cooking fires—most of which result from unattended cooking—and teaching local residents how to prevent cooking fires from starting in the first place.

According to the latest research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. One out of three home fires begins in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson.

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- · When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- · If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- · When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- · Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- · Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. This is the 85th year that fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.



## STUDY FINDS INCREASED PROPORTION OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING DEATHS

100 firefighters that died in training over the past 10 years

The proportion of firefighter deaths that have occurred during training has increased while the number of firefighter deaths overall has declined over the years.

The report finds that 100 firefighters died while engaged in training-related activities from 1996 through 2005, accounting for 10 percent of all on-duty firefighter deaths.

Of these 100 victims, 47 were local volunteer firefighters, 39 were local career firefighters, and the remaining 14 were from other organizations.

Training is an essential part of fire department operations and it is worrisome that the training proportion of firefighter deaths has increased. Firefighting is a dangerous profession and to see deaths occurring due to activities that are meant to prevent death and injury is distressing.

The largest number of firefighters died while participating in apparatus

and equipment drills, accounting for 36 deaths. Twenty-one of the 36 firefighters who died during this activity suffered sudden cardiac death. The second largest number of training deaths over the 10-year period occurred while firefighters were taking part in an activity meant to promote health - 30 died during physical fitness training. Twenty-three of the deaths during physical fitness training were attributed to cardiac events.

Sudden cardiac death (usually heart attacks) is the number one cause of firefighter fatalities overall and the same is true for those during training. Just over half of the firefighters who died while training during the 10-year period died due to cardiac events. According to the study, sudden cardiac death was responsible for 53 of the 100 deaths.

It is our hope that this 10-year study will help prevent future deaths by identifying areas where training safety can be improved.

Each year NFPA issues an in-depth report on firefighter fatalities in the United States. The new 10-year analysis on deaths related to training utilizes information from these broader annual studies that cover overall firefighter fatalities in the U.S.

NFPA publishes a range of standards that provide guidelines for safely conducting firefighter training and addresses health issues. NFPA 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions describes a process for conducting live fire training evolutions to ensure that they are conducted in safe facilities and that the exposure to health and safety hazards for the firefighters receiving the training is minimized. NFPA 1582 Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments contains descriptive requirements for a comprehensive occupational medical program.

### **NEW FACES**



Alexandrea S. Haggerty

**Our Summer Interns** 



Paige Anderson

Alexandrea S. Haggerty will be a sophomore and looking forward to being in the 10th grade at Highland Park High School. She enjoys playing basketball, softball, talking on the phone, listening to music and playing the drums. When she gets out of high school she would like to attend Haskell Indian College and University of Texas playing basketball. Her goal is to play basketball for the WNBA and the LA Sparks.

Paige Anderson will be in ninth grade at Hayden High School this fall. Her hobbies are cooking, singing, and volunteering around the city. This summer besides working at the KSFM office she was a volunteer at Stormont Vail Hospital. When she graduates from high school she would like to travel and experience bungie jumping or skydiving. Her main goal in life is; " to just have fun because tomorrow isn't promised".

### Brenda McNorton, Chief Fire Prevention

#### **INSPECTION TIPS:**

Checking Fire Department Connections:

The fire inspector should closely check the fire department connections when conducting regular fire protection systems inspections. Here are just a few things to examine:

- Protective caps or plugs should be in place to prevent obstructions being placed inside the fire department connection.
- The female swivel connections should be free to spin. They should be lubricated with powdered graphite or some other lubricant that will not leave a gummy residue.
- The threads should be smooth and undamaged. The female swivel should be round. Consider using a male adapter to check all the fittings for correct thread cuts.
- · Visually inspect the interior for obstructions.
- · Inspect the swing check devices or clappers. Use a spanner wrench or other tool to operate them.
- · Verify that there is no water accumulation in the fire department connection. This may indicate a leaky check valve or faulty automatic drain.
- Verify that the identification sign (case plate) correctly labels the connection for sprinklers, standpipes, combination system, or other fire protection system.

### UL Warns of Counterfeit UL Listed Automatic Fire Sprinklers

NORTHBROOK, Ill. - July 14, 2006 — Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is notifying consumers, distributors and property owners of chrome plated automatic fire sprinklers that bear a counterfeit UL Mark for the United States and Canada. Although marked with the word "Globe," these sprinklers are not manufactured by Globe Fire Sprinkler Corporation and have not been evaluated for safety by UL.

**The Model of Product:** GL 5651, and **Date of Manufacture:** 2005 to present. **Identification:** Pendent type automatic fire sprinkler *Marking on Frame:* GLOBE *Marking on the Deflector:* SSP, cULus in a circle, GL 5651, 2005, 155°F/68°C UL Listed sprinklers manufactured by Globe Fire Sprinkler Corp. contain a hex head screw and a Job G5 glass bulb.

Sprinklers with the counterfeit UL Mark are manufactured with a slot head screw and a Job F5 glass bulb.

**What you should do:** UL recommends that the sprinklers be replaced by qualified service personnel and returned to the place of purchase.

The UL web site. http://www.ul.com/media/newsrel/nr071406.html



### **Campus Fire Safety Month**

Governor Sebelius in conjuction with State
Fire Marshal Jack Alexander have proclaimed
the month of September Campus Fire Safety
Month. The State Fire Marshal Fire Prevention
Division encourages administrators and
municipalities across the county to provide
educational programs to students during
September and thoughout the school year; to
elevate the level of fire safety being provided
in both on and off campus student housing, and
to take the necessary steps to ensure fire safe
living environments. Please see the State Fire
Marshal web site for College Fire Safety
Checklist for students.



Tom Keltch was employed with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's office for 15 years. He retired June , 2006. His job was as a Fire Prevention Health Care Inspector for the Western Region of Kansas. We all wish Tom a well and happy retirement.

Brian Love, Fire Prevention Health Care Inspector for the SE territory, after 4 years with our agency will be leaving us. Brian has currently accepted another position with a fire department close to his home. Brian has been a very instrumental employee and will be missed. Good luck from all of us!

Stephen Fenske, Fire Prevention Health Care Inspector for the NE territory, has accepted a position with in the agency as a Fire Protection Specialist in the Topeka Office. We look forward to welcoming Stephen to the Topeka Office.



#### By Kenya Patzer, Prevention Enforcement

School buildings offer some of the most familiar ground we will ever inspect. Most buildings have been there, unchanged, for decades. We've driven by them, responded to calls there, enrolled our children there, and possibly even attended school there ourselves. Despite this familiarity, schools present very clear challenges to the fire service inspector, beginning with the question of when to do inspections.

State Fire Marshal inspectors perform school inspections during the actual school year only. We expect that changes in staff will bring changes in fire safety concerns, and the only time to see these changes is when the building is occupied by staff and students. It is our preference that your school inspections, as the local jurisdiction, are done during the school year

### **School Inspections**

while students are in class. However, we also understand that some areas have many more schools than others, and it is physically impossible to inspect each building between August and May. In this case, you may want to alter which schools are inspected during the summer months. If one school was inspected during the summer, make sure the following year it is inspected during the school year.

If you inspect schools during the summer months, remember that even though the building may be mostly unoccupied, exit paths and means of egress must still be clear and accessible. Summer months are often used for extensive cleaning, remodeling, and other types of maintenance work. Exits, fire alarms, and other life safety features must still be maintained,

despite this work. Also, look to see whether the building is being occupied for things like summer programs or weight lifting classes. If so, the building should be maintained to the same standard as during the school year.

If you and your fire department choose to inspect schools before the first day of classes, we strongly urge you to consider following up with another inspection a few months later. This will allow you to check the frequency of fire drills, the amount of artwork or displays in hallways, whether children are storing backpacks on hallway floors during class, and whether industrial arts classrooms are operating safely. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our phone number is 785-296-3401.

### By Amanda Yorkey, Fire Prevention Inspector

# Implementing the new Kansas Propane Safety and Licensing Act.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office has been given the task of enforcing the rules and regulations for the new Kansas Propane Safety and Licensing Act. The statutes and regulations establish programs which enhance the fire and life safety for the consumers of liquefied petroleum gas. It also insures that employees are trained and qualified to provide adequate protection and guidance to the liquefied petroleum gas industry and to the public in regards to handling, installation, modification, delivery and use of liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied petroleum gas systems. It requires those businesses who deal with liquefied petroleum gas to obtain licenses for their particular activity, submit plans for new installations, and maintain records which will be reviewed and approved by the Kansas State Fire Marshal.

As a local regulating agency you may receive calls in regards to the new licensing requirements. Please review the following facts that may help answer those questions.

- License regulations will be effective October 1, 2006
- Any facility dealing with propane must acquire the appropriate license(s)
- Propane cylinder cages must have a KSFM sticker indicating they have the Exchange Cabinet License
- Any vehicle transporting propane cylinders as part of a retail exchange must have the Cylinder Transport License
- Plumbers and technicians who service LPG systems must obtain an Installation and Service License

Complete application packet and regulations may be found on our website at <a href="http://www.accesskansas.org/firemarshal/FirePrevention/lpghome.htm">http://www.accesskansas.org/firemarshal/FirePrevention/lpghome.htm</a>.



**Amanda Yorkey** 

Amanda Yorkey is the new Fire Prevention Inspector for the Fire Prevention Division of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office. She will be responsible for the enforcement of liquefied petroleum gas, fuels, residential board and care, and routine hospital inspections. She previously worked in the Fire Investigation Division responsible for the fireworks and explosive programs. Prior to her employment with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office she was employed by Key Staffing as a Staffing Consultant, and she spent 4 years active duty in the U.S. Air Force as an Intelligence Operations Analyst.



### Sprinklers Quickly Extinguish Fires in Two Kansas Nursing Homes

Recent fires at Tonganoxie Nursing Center and Villa St. Francis in Olathe have reinforced the value of fire alarm systems and sprinkler systems in healthcare occupancies. Both the chapel fire at Olathe and the laundry fire at Tonganoxie were extinguished within seconds with the activation of one or two sprinkler heads. In both scenarios, more damage was from water than from the products of combustion.

All healthcare facilities in the State of Kansas are required to report all fires to the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office.

Each time the KSFMO investigates an incident, we learn from what went wrong and what could be improved. In each of these incidents, fire department response was exceptional. Adequate resources were dedicated early in the incidents and fire department pre-incident plans were followed as closely as possible. It is obvious that pre-plans are general guidelines and each incident presents challenges that could not be planned for, nevertheless, a pre-incident plan is absolutely mandatory for response to target hazard occupancies. Paid departments or volunteer departments must develop a pre-incident plan for these target hazard occupancies; both for the protection of the patients and the emergency responders.

VIIIa St. Francis Chapel, Olathe, Kansas



Though healthcare facilities are required to formulate policies and procedures for fires and emergency evacuations, these two accidental fires brought to light an issue that was present at both incidents. Have you met with facility representatives to compare their emergency policies and procedures with the fire department's preincident plan? Two perfectly formulated plans that have not been synchronized to work together are of little or no benefit in the mitigation of an incident. If no efforts have been made to coordinate fire department plans with the healthcare facility's own plans prior to the occurrence of an actual incident, it will become quite obvious when the alarm bells ring.

### Tonganoxie Nursing Center, Tonganoxie, Kansas



The incident commander at the Tonganoxie fire noticed early in the incident that the nursing staff was performing patient care with the assistance of emergency responders without effective communication to incident command (IC). The solution was determined to be incorporating the facility charge nurse into the IC structure as an aide to the medical branch officer.

Both the Olathe Fire Department and the Tonganoxie Fire Department should be commended for jobs well done in handling these incidents. Both fires resulted in no injuries to residents or firefighters and limited damage to the facilities.



### Youth Programs Division Provides Leadership for Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference, put on annually by the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (MVDIAFC) was held June 13-15, 2006 in Lawrence. The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, Youth Programs Division, was one of the primary sponsors, along with Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute, Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Cusick Jost Consulting LLC, Fire Education Association of Kansas, State Farm Insurance and the National Association of State Fire Marshals. The 100 attendees represented fourteen states in addition to Kansas. Those who attended included Fire Service, Medical Burn Centers, Red Cross, Juvenile Justice, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment, Private Business, Federal Centers for Disease Control, Mental Health, Maternal and Child Health, SOS Fires and Safe Kids Kansas.

- · Having a quality conference with strong emphasis on fire and burn prevention, juvenile firesetter intervention and public fire, burn and life safety education
- Providing professional networking opportunities
- · Offering a wide range of classes from novice to expert
- Measuring outcomes related to improvements by attendees in knowledge, ability, skills, confidence and competence

For the second year, the Cusick-Jost Consulting Company from Wichita, Kansas has developed the outcome measurement assessments for the conference. By doing this, conference leaders are able to determine what kinds of educational presentations will have a meaningful impact on attendees, local programs and ultimately on the children, families and caregivers that we serve.

By teaching how to collect and interpret data on youth-set fires, program staff is able to track the impact of programs evidenced by reduction in the number of juvenile set fires, injuries, deaths and property losses. An excellent data program that tracks juvenile set fires, while maintaining confidentiality, was presented by Don Porth from SOS Fires. Information on this system can be downloaded directly at: www.sosfires.com.

For the first time this year, awards were given to programs that had taken back information from last year's conference and implemented them. Listed below are the award winners and some highlights from their programs.

First Place-Johnson County Rural Fire District # 1-Clarksville, Arkansas

- · 34% decrease in residential property loss
- · 287% increase in fire safety programming over the previous year (presented over 46 direct fire safety programs to 2770 children and 624 adults)
- · Participated in 143 hours of fire safety training
- Involvement with Fire Corps program to plan and promote Safety Fair resulted in quadrupling the size over the previous year
- · Increased departments volunteer hours to 6,446 in 2005

Second Place-Winfield Kansas Fire Stopper Program-Winfield, Kansas

- · Expanded program county-wide
- · Added 12 community agencies as partners in the program with strong linkage to school system.
- · Received funding from county diversion program to purchase program videos.
- · Conducted over 12 parent and child interviews
- · Conducted over 12 training classes for over 150 participants
- Developed successful public education campaign

Third PlaceAmerican Red Cross Burn Prevention Program -Kansas City, Missouri

- · Obtained start up funding from Allstate Insurance Company
- Purchased 12 videos to lend out to service providers who do home visits such as Parents as Teachers, health agencies, early learning programs.
- · Developed packet for home visit clients
- Utilizes home safety checklist and provides smoke alarms and installation if needed.
- · Partnership with Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Fourth Place-Safe Kids, Joplin, Missouri (Jasper/Newton County)

- · After school program to teach fire safety
- · Presentations at Head Start Sites, Preschools and Elementary Schools
- · Newspaper coverage from Joplin Daily News
- Developed picture board and visual aids for presentations
- Used family example of fire to personalize presentation.

Plans are already underway for next year's Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson, Kansas. SAVE THE DATE for JUNE 19-22, 2007. If you are not on the mailing list to receive notices and would like to be added, please contact Elena Nuss at 785-296-3403 or Email <a href="mailto:nusse@ksfm.state.ks.us">nusse@ksfm.state.ks.us</a>. Elena is Division Chief over Youth Programs at the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office and the Chair of the Public Education Section for MVDIAFC.

Please feel free to call Rosie Williams, Youth Program Director, Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office at 785-296-8606 if you have questions or need resources or training for your public education or juvenile firesetting program. Email: <a href="williamr@ksfm.state.ks.us">williamr@ksfm.state.ks.us</a>



# Special Operations: Karl W. McNorton, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

### **Everyone Goes Home**

If you're not familiar with this slogan, you need to be. This is a program to help the fire service in recognizing the need to do more to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation launched this national initiative to bring prevention to the forefront. The program is well worth looking into and will work well into any training program or drills.

The Foundation and you will play a major role in helping the U.S. Fire Administration meet its stated goal to reduce firefighter fatalities by 25% within 5 years and by 50% within 10 years. The program has 16 Life Safety Initiatives that could be adopted by all fire departments.

#### 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

- Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
- 2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
- Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
- All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
- Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
- Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
- 7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
- 8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
- 9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
- 10. Grant programs should support the implemen-

- tation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
- 11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
- 12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
- 13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
- 14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
- 15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
- 16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

To find out more about these initiatives and programs or presentations contact:

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation PO Box 498 Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301-447-1365

email: <a href="mailto:everyonegoeshome@firehero.org">everyonegoeshome@firehero.org</a> web: <a href="mailto:www.everyonegoeshome.com/">www.everyonegoeshome@firehero.org</a>

# Improving Your Response to Structure Fires

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently published a document entitled Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems. And, no, it's not a regulation but a guide to help increase the safety of building occupants and emergency responders. It specifically was intended to assist the designers of buildings and fire protection systems to better understand the needs of the fire service. Having read through much of the document I find it will not only provide guidance for the designers but will also help your fire operations, plans review, and inspections.

The document is 69 pages and is available at www.osha.gov. / Publications/fire\_features3256.pdf.



# Are You Reporting and Meeting Your Obligations?

It appears many fire departments have been slow to report incidents to the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office. Brenda Reber and John Weckerling do a fantastic job of getting the information in and producing output reports as needed. However, recent events and attendance at drought response meetings have left us with little information to report. We were unable to accurately summarize the fire problem in the state. The culprit is non-reporting or very behind in reporting. For those of you who have kept up thank you and keep up the good work. You set a tremendous example.

As a reminder Kansas Administrative Regulations require that incidents shall be reported to the Kansas State Fire Marshal by the 20th of the month following the incident. We are asking you to please make every effort to meet that obligation. With nearly everyone submitting incident reports electronically there really is no excuse. At a recent meeting the Kansas State Forest Service also wanted to remind those departments who have received funding or equipment through them need to meet their obligation for reporting or risk losing said equipment or funding. Statistical data is what helps us all to secure the opportunity for grants and federal funding.

#### By John Weckerling, IT Manager

### **KFIRS Notes**

We are over half way through 2006 and still have around 260 fire departments out of 648 that have not reported. New grants will be starting shortly and we have posted this non-reporting list on our web-site. If they look at the web-site and see non-reporting fire departments applying for grants this could have an impact on your getting a grant. There are also numerous fire departments that have submitted incidents but are not current with their reporting. To ensure we can meet our obligations in providing fire statistics to the Legislature and other entities in a timely manner we will be cutting off the reporting for 2006 incidents on Jan 20, 2007. Incidents received after this date will not be considered for the annual report nor will they be forwarded to USFA.

We have posted our 2005 annual report under KFIRS on the web-site as well as some problems and coding errors. We will try to keep this page updated as we see problems or changes occurring with the reporting.

FireHouse will be sending out version 7 later this year. To do this update you need to be on either version 6.2.2 or 6.3.10. If you are still on version 5 you need to get with John Weckerling, 785-296-4198, to get you updated to version 6. To verify which version 5 you are on you need to go to "help" on the toolbar in FireHouse and then "about FireHouse". On the next screen you should have something that tells you the version. I need the entire number i.e.5.4.98 or 5.5.10 or 5.3.24 or 5.2.34. Depending on which version of 5 you have will determine whether you have to do one or two updates to get to 6.

If you want your narrative to be sent with your incidents you need to check a box on the date screen in the export wizard of FireHouse that says "export narrative fields". In version 6.2.2 or 6.3.10 this field is already checked. For those of you that use other software, hopefully there is something on your export area that allows you to send the comments with the reports.

We are still getting numerous reports with 100 as the incident type code. A notice was sent out in June to the departments that were using this code for 2006 to correct it. For those of you that received reports using the 100 series we provided suggestions to those departments that had sent narratives with their reports. The use of this code indicates the incident was not a structure fire, vehicle fire, trash fire, other outside fire, grass fire, or crop fire. In all instances where the department had provided comments, Brenda and I were able to provide a code/codes that could be used instead of 100. We still have quite a few departments that got those reports that still haven't corrected the codes. If you have any questions, call John Weckerling at 785-296-4198 or Brenda Reber at 785-296-0660.

For those of you that have CAD systems, you need to make sure the arrival/cleared times for each apparatus responding to the incident match the time range in the basic module arrival/cleared times. We continue to get numerous incidents with this problem and this is a critical error in the system and incidents that have critical errors are not processed at USFA.

# Tom A. McGuaghey Fire Service Award

### Attention!!

We know there are firefighters that deserve this recognition. Nominations need to be submitted no later than October 10, 2006.

It is time to send in your nominations for the Tom A. McGuaghey Fire Service Award. The award is in recognition of Wichita Fire Chief Tom A. McGuaghey. Chief McGuaghey was killed along with four other Wichita fire fighters when the Yingling Chevrolet building collapsed November 21, 1968.

This award is presented to a fire fighter or fire fighters and their department for performing an act that was above and beyond the call of duty. The award typically is given to those whose act of heroism at a fire rescued citizens or saved one of our own.

We ask that you submit your nominations for this award to our office as soon as possible. The award will be presented at the Kansas Association of State Fire Chiefs conference. Your nominations should include the names of those who performed the heroic act, and a detailed description of the incident and their actions. Please include if possible any pictures or video if available. Please send these to the attention of Karl W. McNorton, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, 700 SW Jackson St., Ste. 600, Topeka, Kansas 66603-3714 or Fax at 785-296-0151 or email to mcnortok@ksfm.state.ks.us.



### Rose Rozmiarek, Chief of Investigations Division



**Tara Convery** 

Tara Convery is our summer intern helping Carolyn and the Investagations Division. She is a senior at Washburn University in Topeka. She will graduate in December 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Tara volunteers her time at the KSFM office up to 30 hours a week. Her other job is at Puffy's Steak and Icehouse where she is a waitress/bartender/floor manager. She has a nine year old son who loves to play base ball, so her evenings off are at the ball diamond.

# Training: New Investigative Software Training

The training for the certified investigators on the new investigative training has been going well. Since May of this year there have been 15 classes conducted throughout the state and over two thirds of the certified investigators now have access to the system. As the training continues we have already made some changes to the system upon the request of the investigators. One of the advantages of the new system is that some changes and addi-

tions are easily made by the agency and there is not a need for specially trained ITs or computer programmers.

### **Fire Investigation Course**

Just a reminder that the 80-hour fire investigation training will be held in Salina starting Sept. 11, 2006. This is one of the two required courses for anyone wishing to become a certified fire investigator through the state.

# Divisional General Information:

The investigators with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office have been busy this year. The total number of fires worked by the division, to date, is up from the previous few years and overall it appears a large majority of departments have had an increase in the number of fires worked and investigated. Let's hope this is not a trend we are going to be seeing. From an investigative stand point this is not a good trend. Since we all know our manpower in investigations is not an area that continues to grow. Due to the limited amount of manpower when investigations increase the amount of time and effort that can be put into a case is reduced. The end result is less follow up investigations that can adversely affect the complete resolution of the case.

One area that we have seen an increase in is in the area of firework related incidents. There have been several deaths and severe injuries from not only consumer fireworks but also commercial fireworks. We have been obtaining statistical information on these types of injuries but we know we are not getting all the data to give us a complete picture of the activity. We are looking at other ways that we can collect this data for a more accurate picture.



### Legislative Issues/ Statute Change

As most of you know we have been trying to get some changes made to the arson statutes for the past couple of years. For the 2006 legislative session House Bill 2699 was introduced with the following three changes. They were the felony arson change that would allow the arson statute to apply if during the commission of a felony a fire results accidentally. The second was the injury to a firefighter or investigator and third was the unintentionally setting a fire. As work in the legislation continued HB 2699 was placed into Senate Bill 431. As the legislation was getting ready to rap of the session there was not much movement on SB 431. In a last minute effort SB 431 was passed and placed on the Governor's desk and was signed. Unfortunately not all of the requested changes survived the passage. The one part that did pass was the part on the injury to a firefighter or investigator. That means if you have a fire that was unoccupied, an injury to a firefighter or investigator resulted, and the fire was determined to be arson, the charge would be changed to aggravated arson instead of just arson. The end result would be in the severity level of the felony and the sentencing requirements for the higher felony. This statute change took effect July 1, 2006 and it reads as such:

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 21-3719 is hereby amended to read as follows: 21-3719. (a) Aggravated arson is arson, as defined in K.S.A. 21-3718 and amendments thereto, and:

- (1) Committed upon a building or property in which there is a human being.; or
- (2) which results in great bodily harm or disfigurement to a firefighter or law enforcement officer in the course of fighting or investigating the fire.
- (b) (1) Aggravated arson *as described in subsection* (*a*)(1) resulting in a substantial risk of bodily harm is a severity level 3, person felony.
- (2) Aggravated arson as described in subsection (a)(1) resulting in no substantial risk of bodily harm is a severity level 6, person felony.
- (3) Aggravated arson as described in subsection (a)(2) is a severity level 3, person felony.

Keep in mind the language used in the statute that there must be great bodily harm or disfigurement to the firefighter or investigator. A simple laceration or minor injury is not going to apply. If there are any questions if a particular incident falls under this category you will need to consult with your local district or county attorney.

There were also changes requested for the criminal use of explosives statute as well but those too did not make the final passage of SB 431. We will be looking at trying to get those changes not passed reintroduced during the 2007 legislative session.



### HAZMAT DIVISION: Dan Thompson, Chief, HazMat Division

Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office Hazardous Materials Division Contact Information

HazMat Toll Free #: 1-866-542-9628

### Pager No's:

 Dan Thompson
 785-357-3295

 A.J. Clemmons
 785-357-3192

 Karl McNorton
 785-270-2305

 Group Pager
 785-357-3261

Alpha Numeric Page www.myairmail.com

#### Personal Cell Phone Numbers:

 Dan Thompson
 785-224-9315

 A.J. Clemmons
 785-633-8908

 Karl McNorton
 785-640-2376

Radio Frequencies:

Repeaters not available yet - Use Direct (talk-around)

Receive & talk-around -866.700Transmit ----821.700

DPL Code ---- 023

### Call Signs:

Dan Thompson State Haz-Mat 1 A.J. Clemmons State Haz-Mat 2

#### Home Phone Numbers:

Dan Thompson 785-232-8213 A.J. Clemmons 785-235-9761 Karl McNorton 785-286-3151

clip and save

For more training information, see www.kstrain.org or www.accesskansas.org/firemarshal .





### Spills Resulting from Vehicular Accidents

This guidance document addresses what actions first responders such as fire departments, response contractors and tow truck operators should perform at vehicular accidents. It also provides direction for reporting spills to the appropriate state agencies and provides guidance for proper disposal of wastes.

### **Emergency Response**

Sometimes fire departments flush fluids spilled from vehicles off the roadway as part of the efforts to clear an accident scene. This method is not environmentally sound. Fire departments, tow truck operators or response contractors should utilize absorbents to soak up oil, antifreeze and fuels. Dry absorbents are readily available and are inexpensive. It is a simple matter of applying the absorbent, sweeping and containerizing with the vehicle.

Larger quantities of fuel spilled from large vehicles may impact adjacent soils or flow into drainage way. Local responders should prevent further migration of the fuel in the drainage way by constructing earthen dams, setting booms, or applying absorbents depending on weather conditions.

KDHE requires the responsible party, or its agent, to remove and properly dispose of the contaminated soils.

### Disposal of Wastes from Accidents

The spiller may dispose of small quantities of absorbent contaminated with oil or antifreeze at the local landfill with no special permits required by the landfill. Absorbent contaminated with gasoline causes the most environmental concern. This waste may contain sufficient quantities of benzene to meet the definition of a hazardous waste. The gasoline waste generated at a vehicle accident can be disposed at a sanitary landfill if it weighs less than 55 pounds or is less than 9 gallons by volume. The spiller must contact KDHE at 785-296-1120, 296-1604 or 296-1608 for disposal guidance if more than 55 pounds or a 9-gallon container of gasolinecontaminated waste is generated. KDHE will issue a special waste authorization that will allow the gasoline contaminated absorbent to be disposed at a sanitary landfill. Also, the landfill will not take the contaminated material without this special waste permit. Regulations do not allow for the disposal of free liquids in a sanitary landfill.

### Notifications Requirements for Spills:

Kansas law requires the spiller to report to KDHE when any quantity of fuel or other fluids are released into the soil or water. The 24/7 emergency reporting telephone number is 785-296-1679. If the driver is incapacitated, then the responder in charge of the accident scene should have a designated person contact KDHE. Information such as ownership and insurance company contact phone numbers of the vehicle causing the spill is especially helpful for coordinating clean up and soil removal actions in a timely manner.





### Region 3

Liberal - August 10

Dodge City - August 12,13

Wichita - August 16,17, 18

Emporia - August 21, 22

Olathe - August 24,25, 26

Topeka - August 29, 30, 31

Manhattan - September 6

Salina - September 9

Hays - September 12

Oakley - September 14

### Kansas TRANSCAER Training Tour 2006

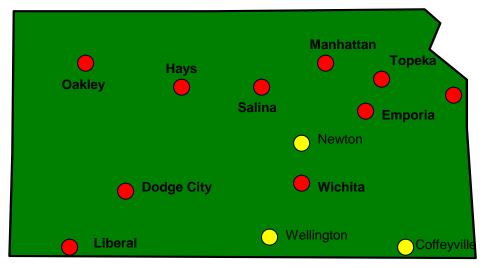
Come and participate in hands-on training with rail training equipment and highway transports. Special emphasis for the tour will be Ethanol. Production, packing and shipping of this growing industry and product. Sessions will run 9 AM until 3 PM daily.

Kansas State HazMat Regional Response Teams are the focus of this training tour. Other Fire Departments and area responders are invited to attend.









Training sites

RRT invited to Wichita or other locations

For information contact: Larry Thompson lthompson@haz-matresponse.com

or: RRT Team Captains for each location.

Kansas State Haz Mat Regional Response Teams are the focus of this training tour. Other Fire Departments and area responders are invited to attend. Check with RRT / CAT team coordinators for space availability.

### Sponsors for the Kansas tour include:

















